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(1349)

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03 SC 01 RSC 01 USIA 12 H 02 NSC 10 L 03 INR 07 P 04 CIA 04
DOD 01 SP 02 SS 35 AID 30 IO 21 EUR 25 SAL 01 NSAE 00 RSR 01
/182 W

R 171100Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8992
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zuber DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8766

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: SA DEC

REF: SAIGON 6815

1. AS OF OCT 15, 16 OUT OF 24 CANDIDATES WHO FILED FOR SA DAC'S 2 LOWER HOUSE SEATS REMAIN IN THE RACE. HO VAN CHO WITHDREW AS DID BUI VAN NHU, CHAIRMAN OF SA DEC SOUTHERN BUDDHIST STUDIES ASSOCIATION. HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES NGO VAN GIAI AND DANG HUU PHAM WITHDREW AT REQUEST OF SDP LEADER PHAM BA CAM BUT PHAM VAN NHIEM OF TRINH QUOC KHANH FACTION SDP REMAINS. MILITARY OFFICERS

TRAN VAN PHUOC, LE VAN HEN AND VO HOANG AN WERE DENIED

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LEAVE. HO VE PHAT EXCLUDED BECAUSE HE WAS PREVIOUSLY DISMISSED FOR CAUSE AS VILLAGE CHIEF.

2. LOWER HOUSE RACE FOR TWO SEATS AT STAKE IN SA DEC IS BETWEEN HOA HAO AND OTHERS. HOA HAO CONSITTUE ONLY ONE-HALF OF SA DEC ELECTORATE WHICH MUYT CHOOSE BETWEEN 10 HOA HAO CANDIDATES. HOWEVER, HOA HAO HAVE ADVANTAGE IN ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

3. LEADING HOA HAO CANDIDATES:

A. NGUEYN VAN VI, CONSITITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, LUONG TRONG TUONG HOA HAO FACTION, SUPPORTED THIEU AND KY IN LAST ELECTION, WILL HAVE STRONG SUPPORT IN HOME DUC THANH DISTRICT. OTHER CANDIDATES CLAIM VI IS THE GVN CANDIDATE AND HAS NO POPULAR SUPPORT. VI WAS MODERATELY ACTIVE PRO-GVN VOICE IN THE CA.
B. NGUEYEN LONG GIAO, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTY, HAS UNOFFICIAL SUPPORT OF SA DEC HOA HAO PROVINCE COMMITTEE WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY TRAN VAN TUOI HOA HAO FACTION. BOTH GIAO AND VI HAVE DEVELOPED EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

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IMPROVEMENT PLATFORMS. BOTH ARE ABLE PUBLIC SPEAKERS AND POLITICIANS.

4. HOA HAO CANDIDATES WITH SOME CHANCE:
A. HUYNH THANH DAY, VICE CHAIRMAN SA DEC HOA HAO PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE. SUPPORTED BY HOA HAO LEADER VAN PHU AND IS USING PALM TREE SYMBOL. HE IS CONSIDERED SECOND CANDIDATE OF SA DEC PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE. NOT CONSIDERED VEPY INTELLIGENT.
B. HUYNH NGOC THANG, MEMBER OF VINH LONG PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, STRONG IN LAP VO DISTRICT. LUONG TRONG TUONG HOA HAO FACTION.

5. OTHER HOA HAO CANDIDATES ARE PHAN VAN NHIEM OF TRINH QUOC KHANH SDP FACTION; TRAN VAN HOC, CVT REPRESENTATIVE OSA DEC WHO SUPPORTED PHAN KHAC SUU IN LAST ELECTION; NGUYEN QUANG HONG, FORMER HOA HAO MILITARY OFFICER AND

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MEMBER 3 STAR FACTION, RUNNING WITH HOC; MAI VAN HINH,
3 STAR FACTION IN LAP VO DISTRICT; PHAM VAN SANG, SECRETARY GEN-
ERAL OF PATRICTIC VETERANS ASSOCIATION, FROM SAIGON.

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6. LEADING NON-HOA HAO CANDIDATES:

A. HO VAN THOM, FORMER ARVN MAJOR, ASSOCIATED WITH GENERAL TRAN VAN DON, COOPERATED WITH DON IN 1965 EFFORT TO OVERTHROW GENERAL KHANH, FORMER DISTRICT CHIEF OF TAM BINH AND MINH DUC DISTRICTS OF VINH LONG, FORMER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL POLICE (COMBAT POLICE), NO KNOWN RELIGION, SAYS HIS PROGRAM IS THAT OF DON'S FARMER-WORKER-SOLDIER PARTY. HE PROBABLY HAS SUPPORT IN PROVINCIAL CAPITAL BUT SUPPORT IN COUNTRYSIDE NOT CERTAIN.
B. VO VAN THANH, CHAIRMAN SA DEC VILLAGE COUNCIL, FORMER VIET MINH CADRE B CHAIRMAN OF SA SEC LABRETTA DRIVERS UNION. THANH WILL HAVE SUPPORT IN PROVINCIAL CAPITAL AND CANIDDATES VI AND THOM CLAINCTHAT HE WILL HAVE SUPPORT OF VIET CONG IN COUNTRYSIDE.
C. NGUYEN THANH DANH, LAW DEGREE SAIGON UNIVERSITY, CHIEF CLERK LAW COURT SAIGON, BUDDHIST, ONE OF YOUNGEST CANDIDATES, ADVOCATES PEACE BEFORE ACCOMPLISHMENT OTHER PROGRAMS, GENERAL APPROACH COMPARABLE TO TRUONG DINH DZU.

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7. ANOTHER CANDIDATE OF INTEREST IN NGUYEN HUU MAI, USING SYMBOL OF WHITE DOVE, PLATFORM VICTORY AND PEACE, CANDIDATE NGUEYEN VAN VI SHOWED EMBOFF LEAFLETS HE CLAIMS MAT PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED IN INSECURE AREAS IN VIOLATION OF ELECTION LAW. VI WILL FILE COMPLAINT IF MAI IS ELECTED.

8. ALTHOUGH VARIETY OF CANDIDATES HAS ARDUSED SOME INTEREST, LOCAL OFFICIALS BELIEVE TURNOUT WILL BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. CAMPAIGN MATERIAL (BANNERS, POSTERS, LEAFLETS, ETC.) WERE NOT DISTRIBUTED UNTIL OCT 12.
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DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, NSA 02, SAL 01, RSR 01 /108 W

R 170600Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8953
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK UNN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD UNN
AMCONSUL DANANG UNN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8746

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: KONTUM

REF: SAIGON 6820

1. AS OF OCTOBER 11, NINE PERSONS REMAIN IN RACE FOR KONTUM'S TWO LOWER HOUSE SEATS, SEVEN FOR THE SINGLE VIETNAMESE SEAT AND TWO FOR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MONTAGNARD SEAT. TWO CANDIDATES WERE REJECTED BY THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION COUNCIL: NGUYEN CONG PHUNG AND

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NGUYEN BA HIEU. BOTH ARE ARVN OFFICERS WHO WERE NOT GRANTED LEAVES OF ABSENCE. ONE CANDIDATE HAS WITHDRAWN, ARVN CAPT: DR. LE HUU LAM, KONTUM'S CONSITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTY. MEDICAL ASSOCIATES OF DR. LAM REPORT THAT HE WITHDREW TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO MEDICAL AND SOCIAL WORK IN KONTUM WHERE HE HAS A LARGE AND PROBABLY PROFITABLE PRIVATE PRACTICE. HOWEVER DR. LAM'S

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WITHDRAWAL MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN PROMOTED BY HIS AWARENESS THAT HE LACKS THE BACKING OF KONTUM'S PROVINCE CHIEF, LT. COL. NGUYEN HOP DOAN, WHOSE SUPPORT FOR LAM IN LAST YEAR'S CA ELECTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE DECISIVE ELEMENT IN HIS VICTORY.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THE SEVEN REMAINING CANDIDATES FOLLOWS:

A. TRAN VAN HAI, B. 27 AUGUST 1919 IN PHUOC TUY, BUDDHIST. HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION; BUSINESSMAN IN BA RIA UNTIL 1950 WHEN HE JOINED ARVN AND BECAME MEDIC; 1957, DEMOBILIZED FROM ARVN FOR MEDICAL REASONS WHILE

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HOLDING RANK OF SERGEANT; MOVED TO KONTUM WHERE AFTER LEAVING ARVN BECAME SMALL BUSINESSMAN; 1965 ELECTED TO KONTUM PROVINCIAL COUNCIL; 1966, DEFEATED CANDIDATE FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY; 1967, ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF VILLAGE COUNCIL OF CHAU THANH (DOWNTOWN KONTUM); BEHIND THE SCENES SUPPORTER OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TRAN VAN HUONG.

B. TONG PHUOC NGUYEN, B. JANUARY 1930, THUA THIEN, CATHOLIC. SINCE 1951 A BUSINESSMAN IN KONTUM; PARTICIPATED IN DIEM'S NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH MOVEMENT; 1965, ELECTED TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AND CHOSEN SECRETARY; 1966, UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY; 1967, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF NGUYEN GIA HIEN'S VICTORIOUS UPPER HOUSE LIST.

C. NGUYEN HUU AN, B. 15 JANUARY 1936, KONTUM, CATHOLIC. 1962, GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY OF SAIGON SPECIALIZING IN TOWN PLANNING; HAS TRAVELED TO AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE REPRESENTING VIETNAMESE YOUTH; ONCE

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PRESIDENT OF YOUNG CATHOLIC YOUTH AT SAIGON UNIVERSITY: 1962-5, SERVED IN ARVN, PART OF TIME ON STAFF OF GEN. DUONG VAN MINH: 1965-6, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS: 1966, RESIGNED FROM MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS AT TIME AU TRUONG THANH LEFT GOVERNMENT. AN IS BROTHER OF THE EDUCATION SERVICE CHIEF IN KONTUM. HE IS INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE.

D. DINH XUAN HUE, B. 21 JANUARY 1920, KONTUM, CATHOLIC. HUE IS A BUSINESSMAN WITH A REPUTATION IN KONTUM FOR BEING SHIFTY AND UNSCRUPULOUS. 1965, ELECTED TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL: 1966, UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE IN CA ELECTION: 1967, IN MANEUVER BACKED BY PROVINCE CHIEF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL VOTED HUE ITS CHAIRMAN REPLACING NGUYEN HUU PHU: 1967, REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GENERAL NGUYEN VAN THIEU. HUE IS CLOSE TO THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND WISHES ALL TO BELIEVE COL. DOAN BACKS HIS CANDIDACY.

E. HUYNH CONG HAO, B. 2 FEBRUARY 1915, PHU YEN,

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BUDDHIST. FORMER VILLAGE OFFICIAL: A BUSINESSMAN WHO IS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR AIR VIETNAM.

F. NGUYEN VAN THONG, B. 20 MAY 1932, HA DONG, CATHOLIC. HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER IN KONTUM: 1965, ELECTED TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL: 1966, UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIATE FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

G. NGUYEN HUU PHU, B. 7 JULY 1907, KONTUM, CATHOLIC. PHU IS HEAD OF ONE OF KONTUM'S LEADING FAMILIES: 1956-63, CHIEF OF INFORMATION SERVICE IN KONTUM: NOW RETIRED: 1965, ELECTED TO PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, SERVED AS ITS CHAIRMAN UNTIL RECENTLY: 1966, CLOSE RUNNER-UP IN CA ELECTION.

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4. PROVINCE CHIEF DOAN WAS ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES DURING LAST YEAR'S CA ELECTION, AND THE TWO MEN WHO WERE KNOWN AS HIS CANDIDATES BOTH WON - DR. LE HUU LAM AND MONTAGNARD NGUYEN VAN PHIEN. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT COL. DOAN IS NOT ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THIS YEAR'S LOWER HOUSE ELECTION. SIMILARLY, INFLUENCIAL CATHOLIC PRIESTS HAVE THUS FAR SHOWN NO

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INCLINATION TO SUPPORT ANY CATHOLIC CANDIDATE. WITH THE PROVINCE CHIEF AND THE CLERGY UNCOMMITTED, THE RACE APPEARS WIDE OPEN, MUCH TO THE LIKING OF THE CANDIDATES. THE THREE LEADING CONTENDERS - NGUYEN HUU PHU, NGUYEN VAN THONG AND NGUYEN HUU AN - ARE ALL CATHOLICS. HALF OF THE KONTUM ELECTORATE IS CATHOLIC.

5. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE TWO MONTAGNARD CADIDATES FOLLOWS:

A. NGUYEN VAN PHIEN AKA PEANG, B. 17 MARCH 1924, KONTUM, CATHOLIC, MEMBER OF SEDANG TRIBE. SOME HIGH SCHODL EDUCATION: 1965-6, CHIEF OF MONTAGNARD AFFAIRS SERVICE IN KONTUM: 1966, ELECTED
TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
WHERE HE SERVED WITHOUT DISTINCTION: ARVN OFFICER, RECENTLY PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN.

B. KIOP, B. 1911, KONTUM, CATHOLIC, SEDANG. FORMER PF SOLDIER, NOW RETIRED.

6. NGUYEN VAN PHIEN IS ALL BUT ASSURED RE-ELECTION. BUNKER

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